

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 130

By McKee

A RESOLUTION recognizing the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District for its fifty years of service to the people of McMinn County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those organizations which are dedicated to preserving the sanctity of the environment of this State; and

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District is one such organization and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of McMinn County recognize that soil, water, forest, and wildlife are among the County's most essential and valuable natural resources and fifty years ago established an agency which is dedicated to the proper usage, conservation, and improvement of those very resources; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation District was founded on December 28, 1954, and in February of 1955, Rex Moses, Clarence Miller, Carl D. Sliger, J.G. Wilson, and J.K. Pickens were elected to serve as the first Board of Supervisors. Their astute service has been emulated by all of the board members down through the years: Judson Dougherty, Foster Leslie, Hubert McMahan, Clyde Barham, Ross Elkins, R.J. Mason, Betty Bivens, Ruby Richardson, Jerry Howell, John Gambill, Jeff Wolfe, Kevin Barham, Ernest H. Whitaker, Doug Watts, and Robert Wilson; and

WHEREAS, the first conservationist assigned to the District was Marvis Cunningham; he was followed by Elmer Jones, Howard Whitaker, Melissa Smith, Eston Williams, and Jerry Frady; and

WHEREAS, under such astute leadership and guidance, the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District has undertaken and completed many important and beneficial projects throughout its fifty-year history, including the Chestuee Creek Watershed, the Sweetwater Creek Watershed, the Oostanaula Creek Watershed, the Pond Creek Watershed, the seeding of 350 acres of road banks, the establishment of the first approved sanitary landfill in the State, and the creation of the Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development District; and

WHEREAS, in February of this year, the citizens of McMinn County will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, more than simply a measure marking the passage of time, the 50th anniversary celebration pays homage to a voluntary conservation program which has, throughout the last half-century, involved more than thirty thousand farmers and other land users; and

WHEREAS, over the past fifty years, the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District has demonstrated its remarkable ability to administer a land treatment program in an effort to control erosion and to improve the quality of the water through voluntary procedures; it was named Outstanding Soil Conservation District in Tennessee five times and led the State in the establishment of strip cropping and minimum tillage conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District should be properly recognized for its long history of preserving and improving the environment within the confines of McMinn County and for providing a sterling example of the benefits of soil and water conservation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body recognizes and commends the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation District on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary and offer our most sincere gratitude for its continuing conservation efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.